

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 are pending and are canceled by this Paper. New claims 3-5 are presented for examination; thus, reconsideration of the instant application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention, and specifically because of the assertion that it is “unclear if the ‘support wall forming body’ is the same element as the ‘shaft support wall forming body,’ of claim 1.”

Further, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Matsufuji (U.S. Pat. No. 6,360,623).

As stated above, claims 1-2 have been canceled, and thus, rejection thereof is moot.

Applicants’ new claim 3 recites Applicants’ tractor and transmission casing therefor, the casing comprising a plurality of cylindrical casings each connected in the fore-and-aft direction, and comprising a main transmission casing incorporating a main transmission mechanism and a sub transmission casing incorporating a sub transmission mechanism, and a shaft support wall forming body detachably mounted on an inner peripheral portion of the rear end portion of the main transmission casing, in which a rear end surface of the main transmission casing is

in facing contact with and connected with a front end surface of the sub transmission casing without interposing the shaft support wall forming body, an inner support wall is integrally formed on a front inner peripheral surface of the main transmission casing, wall receiving seats are formed on a rear inner peripheral surface of the main transmission casing, the shaft support wall forming body being detachably mounted on the wall receiving seats, and further in which a main transmission main shaft and a main transmission sub shaft comprising the main transmission mechanism are supported between the inner support wall and the shaft support wall forming body, and a slide body support shaft and a lever interlocking shaft comprising a main transmission manipulation mechanism are slidably arranged between the inner support wall and the shaft support wall forming body in the fore-and-aft direction, respectively. Applicants' new claims 4-5 depend from Applicants' claim 3, and thus, likewise recite the aforementioned features of Applicants' tractor and transmission casing therefor.

Matsufuji discloses a transmission system including a front housing 1, a transmission case 2 and rear housing 3 which are fastened together, as well as a bearing support wall 5 secured to the rear end of the front housing 1. Column 5, lines 38-51. The bearing support wall 5 supports a portion of Matsufuji's output shaft 13 and a portion of its transmission shaft 11, column 6, lines 57-64, and FIG 13, and appears to be secured to a flanged portion of the front housing 1.

Matsufuji, however, fails to teach or suggest Applicants' tractor and transmission casing therefor. More particularly, there is no teaching or suggestion of Applicants' shaft support wall forming body, in combination with Applicants' inner support wall being integrally formed on a front inner peripheral surface of the main transmission casing, wall receiving seats being formed on a rear inner peripheral surface of the main transmission casing, the shaft support wall forming body being detachably mounted on the wall receiving seats, and further in which a main transmission main shaft and a main transmission sub shaft comprising the main transmission mechanism are supported between the inner support wall and the shaft support wall forming body. Further, there is no teaching or suggestion of Applicants' slide body support shaft and Applicants' lever interlocking shaft, which comprise a main transmission manipulation mechanism, being slidably arranged between the inner support wall and the shaft support wall forming body in the fore-and-aft direction, respectively.

Similarly, Matsufuji fails to teach or suggest Applicants tractor and transmission casing therefor as recited in Applicants' new claims 4 and 5, and more particularly, Applicants' planetary gear mechanism as recited therein. Accordingly, Matsufuji further fails to teach or suggest the advantages associated with Applicants' recited contruction, and which include ease of access to

Applicants' planetary gear mechanism which thereby facilitates maintenance thereof.

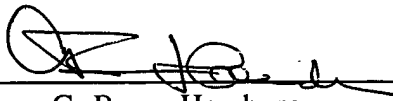
Thus, in view of the above, it is believed that Applicants' claims 3-5 patentably distinguish over Matsufuji.

No fee is believed due. If there is any fee due the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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